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4. (Amended) [The wrench of Claim 1.] An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:
a slide bar having a gripping portion;
an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and^{Moved}
mounting
the upper jaw and the slide bar;
a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower
portion extending toward the gripping portion, wherein the spring biases the upper jaw
toward the lower jaw; and
a brake lever, pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw and spring-biased
against said lower jaw wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and
substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as^{the lower portion of}
the lower jaw extends
longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user may adjust a position of
the lower jaw on the slide bar by actuating said lever and moving said lower jaw relative
to said slide bar.

5. (Amended) The wrench of Claim [1] 4, wherein the lever has an operation portion angled so it extends generally parallel to the slide bar.

6. (Amended) The wrench of Claim [1] 4, wherein the lower jaw has a thumb-resting portion to facilitate movement by a thumb of an operator.

7. (Amended) The wrench of Claim [1] 4, wherein the lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

8. (Amended) The wrench of Claim [1] 4, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

10. (Amended) The wrench of Claim [1] 4, further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

16. (Amended) [The clamp of Claim 12,] An adjustable hand clamp, comprising:
a slide bar having a gripping portion;
an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and mounting a spring between
the upper jaw and the slide bar;
a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first
portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite
direction toward the gripping portion, wherein the spring biases the upper jaw toward
the lower jaw; and
a brake lever, pivotally mounted on one of said portions of the lower jaw and
spring-biased against said second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the
lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping
portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein
a user adjusts a position of the lower jaw on the slide, by repositioning the lower jaw
with a thumb.

17. (Amended) The clamp of Claim [12] 16, wherein the lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

18. (Amended) The clamp of Claim [12] 16, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

20. (Amended) The clamp of Claim [12] 16, further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

21. (Amended) A method of grasping an object with one hand using an adjustable hand tool having a brake lever, the method comprising:

- providing the object and the hand tool;
- gripping the hand tool with one hand;
- adjusting a gap between jaws of the hand tool with the same hand, using a lower jaw and a pivotable upper jaw of the hand tool; and
- grasping the object.

24. (Amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

- a slide bar having a gripping portion;
- an upper jaw mounted to the slide bar;
- a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion; and
- a brake lever, pivotally mounted on the lower jaw and spring-biased on a second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein the brake lever and the slide bar form a bar-engaging mechanism, and a user may open the jaws with a thumb, disengaging the brake lever from the slide bar and urging the lower jaw away from the upper jaw.